

In the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a keratinase, comprising:

(a) culturing a recombinant *Bacillus* in a medium, said recombinant *Bacillus* selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus licheniformis* and *Bacillus subtilis* and having at least one heterologous *kerA* coding sequence inserted into the chromosome thereof, with said recombinant *Bacillus* producing greater quantities of keratinase than a corresponding wild-type *Bacillus* that does not have said at least one heterologous *kerA* coding sequence inserted into the genome thereof; and then

(b) collecting isolating said keratinase from said medium.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said medium comprises not more than 3% keratinase protein substrate.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said medium comprises 1% soy soyflour and 1% feather meal.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said *Bacillus* is *Bacillus licheniformis*.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said *kerA* coding sequence is a *Bacillus licheniformis* or *Bacillus subtilis* *kerA* coding sequence.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said *kerA* coding sequence is a *Bacillus licheniformis* *kerA* coding sequence.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said corresponding wild-type *Bacillus* is *Bacillus licheniformis* PWD-1.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said recombinant *Bacillus* having a plurality of said heterologous *kerA* coding sequence inserted into the chromosome thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, said recombinant *Bacillus* having from 3 to 5 of said heterologous *kerA* coding sequence inserted into the chromosome thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said recombinant *Bacillus* is a keratinase-deficient *Bacillus*.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said *kerA* coding sequence is operatively associated with a constitutive promoter.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said *kerA* coding sequence is operatively associated with a P43 promoter.

14.-30. (Canceled)